

REPORTS OF THE USE OF  
~~CHEMICAL WEAPONS~~

.. IN

AFGHANISTAN, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA

This document responds to requests made by other governments, international organizations and individuals for a collection of reports of the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea which have come to the attention of the US Department of State. This information is from multiple sources, reflects varying degrees of knowledge of the events, and therefore is of varying degrees of reliability. This document contains both reports of use and denials that these weapons have been used. Much of the text is based upon verbatim testimony. The reports for each country are in chronological order--from earliest to most recent.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Afghanistan. . . . .	4
II.	Laos . . . . .	31
III.	Kampuchea. . . . .	102
Appendix		
Questions and Answers		

**AFGHANISTAN**



1. The US Government has information from two tribal leaders who could personally account for at least one hundred fifty gas canisters which had been dropped, in Vardak Province. Incidents occurred before Soviets' December invasion.

Canisters were described as cone-shaped, about one meter long, 18 inches in diameter, with trigger rods protruding from tip and base. Most failed to operate on impact. Gas issuing from those which did, caused eyes and nose to water, loss of motor control, and senselessness for 24 hours. On regaining consciousness, victims had headaches and fits of nerves. None died from gas poisoning.

According to the two leaders, one use of gas was at village of Hafdosial, near Sultan Khel, on the Kabul-Kandahar road, about Dec. 14. Muslim insurgents had ambushed a convoy. Government response included dropping gas canisters. Tribesmen say they can counteract effects by covering nose and mouth with wet cloth and by hiding in trenches.

From Takhar province, an ethnic Tajik chief reported that gas had been dropped on village Dasti Archi, Takhar, on February 2. According to him, no one died from effects of gas.

2. The US Government has reports that during the week of 13 to 17 January, 1980, Soviet forces in Afghanistan used CW agents against Afghan insurgents near Faizabad, Jalalabad, the Hazarajat area of Bamian Province, and Takhar Province. The CW agent was delivered by bombs dropped from aircraft. The bombs exploded in mid-air discharging the CW agent. The CW agent was described as a vapor which felt damp against the skin. Inhalation of the vapor resulted in difficulty in breathing, nasal excretion, vomiting, blindness, paralysis and death.

There were also reports that CW agents were used by Soviet forces during August or September, 1979, in the Panjshir Valley area of Kakisa Province. Reportedly the CW agents were used against insurgents who were attempting an interdiction of the Salang Highway. The CW agents were reportedly delivered by aircraft and alleged to be lethal. A former Afghan army officer who is a member of the insurgent movement described the agent as "nerve gas."

3. The US Government has learned of reports by a journalist who had just returned from the Pakistan border area that: Soviet or Afghan aircraft (witnesses all assumed Soviets were flying Afghan aircraft) dropped gas canisters on concentrations of insurgents or villagers in areas where fighting was occurring. Cylindrical canisters were about 12

inches long. On impact, blue or gray gas billowed out. Gas caused eyes to tear, coughing, loss of motor control, senselessness, and, in many instances, death. Villagers were able to avoid effects by taking refuge in bodies of water.

One incident reported took place in Village Dara Wardoog, between Zebak and Beharak in Badakshan about January 29. After Muslim forces fought Soviet invading from across Oxus River, about 80 villages (50 children, 10 women and 20 men) whose names eyewitness could list, reportedly died from effects of gas. A second Badakshan incident occurred at village Dron, South of Sebak about February 3. Several persons reportedly died from gas which was used after Soviet tanks get bogged down in heavy fighting with Muslims.

In Nuristan, third eyewitness reported, aircraft dropped gas canisters on village Kamdesh about February 11. About 10 persons are said to have died as a result.

4. The US Government has reports that: In February, in Khanabad, in Kunduz Province, the commander of an artillery regiment assigned to the 20th division revolted and took his troops over to the rebels. The commander and the rebels targetted the Soviet-controlled airfield at Kunduz as their main objective. The artillery regiment took up positions around the Kunduz base and the rebels took up support positions. The regiment began to fire on the base, but their aim was poor and they were unable to hit the base. The regiments' firing, however, did alert the Soviets at the base. The Soviets mounted a reconnaissance effort against the rebels and identified their positions. The Soviets then bombed the artillery unit and the rebels with chemical gas bombs. The dissident Afghans became dizzy and fainted. The Soviets arrived in the area and disarmed the Afghans and captured their leaders.

5. UPI, 19 Feb 80 "Soviets Reportedly Using Poison Gas Bombs Against Rebels" by Asrar Ahmad.

Islamabad, Pakistan--Soviet combat planes have dropped deadly gas bombs in at least one of the more than half a dozen Afghan provinces where fighting with Moslem rebels is now raging, a Pakistan newspaper reported today. Fighting in Badakhshan recently included gas-bomb attacks by Soviet fighter planes, in which a number of people were killed, the Jang newspaper of Karachi reported.

6. Television shows Soviet decontamination equipment in Kabul. Although such equipment is organic to division and larger formations, its presence in the occupied country could indicate Soviet plans to use chemical warfare against Afghan insurgents.

Additionally, televised scenes of Soviet units in the Kabul area on 9 and 10 January included photographs of the TMS-65, a vehicle designed for hasty equipment and terrain decontamination. This apparatus is used to rapidly neutralize or remove chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) contamination by propelling liquid decontaminating agents, water, hot air, or steam from an on-board jet engine.

7. The US Government has information from Afghan insurgents that during the fighting in Ghazni City, the Soviets used helicopter gunships extensively to defend the Bala Hissar. The helicopter gunships dropped "special bombs" which emitted a blue colored smoke that incapacitated people for two to three hours but had no other effect on them.

8. The US Government has reports that Soviet forces initiated an attack on Shegaru in Konarha Province in Northeastern part of Afghanistan with 700 tanks and 200 helicopters including MI-24 helicopters from early morning of 29 February. The attack intensified in early March, and the Soviets seemed to have dropped two types of poison gas shells. Victims showed two different symptoms; one is an initial blinding of the eyes with tears, followed immediately by nausea, by change of skin to deep yellow 30 minutes later and finally death. The other is unconsciousness after exposure to smoke followed by death after 30 minutes.

Additional information indicates that the Soviets used poison gas and napalm bombs in their attack on Konarha Province, Afghanistan, in early March. Those exposed to black smoke dispersed by small aircraft lost consciousness.

9. The US Government has reports that Soviet employment of chemical agents took place in area near Badakshar, Afghanistan, sometime between January and February 80. Chemical agents were released over an inaccessible area where the Soviets believed the rebel forces to be hiding. Chemical agents were delivered by helicopters (Soviet MI-24), in bombs dropped over the area which exploded upon ground contact. Upon bomb burst, there was a dissipation of grey hazy caseous mist which settled in the area and appeared to remain there for a long period of time.

Resultant casualties from this action were personnel and all vegetation in the area. All plant life ceased and the area had turned into a desolate wasteland.



10. The US Government has reports that a Kabul resident suffered mental damage as the result of gassing by Soviet troops. He said that he and other rebels had attacked a power station near Jalalabad the week of March 1. Afterward, they were intercepted by Soviet troops who used bullets and gas in cylinders. Most of the rebels were only stunned and were taken to a local hospital. He had since recovered his motor faculties but remained unable to function mentally. A doctor had said that there was nothing physically wrong with him but that he apparently could not shake the effects of the gas. His eyes were glazed, and he could not talk.

Kabul residents had been told on March 5 by an Afghan that his brother had just come to Kabul from the Konar Valley. The brother claimed to have been in a village when it was attacked by Afghan and Soviet forces the previous week. After describing how most of the villagers had been killed in the attacks, he said many of the others had run for the hills, presumably headed for Pakistan. He and at least two others, however, had been stunned by a poisonous, invisible gas. He did not know whence the gas had come. After some time, one of them died, even though he had no visible marks on his body. The other struggled to his feet finally and the two of them walked to another village. There the second man died, again having no visible injuries, but complaining incoherently of a terrible headache. The survivor insisted that he could not get the smell of the gas out of his nostrils and that he still felt nauseous several days after the incident.

11. The US Government has information from an Afghan refugee in March 1980 that chemical weapons were used against the village of Bamian, in Bamian Valley, about 20 miles northwest of Kabul, (112 miles by road) as early as the June-July 1979 period. The means of delivery was rumored to be canisters dropped from Soviet aircraft. The people believed that chemical weapons were used because the corpses of men and animals in Bamian showed no signs of physical violence, and the grass and vegetation was left dead and withered. Source did not know the number of casualties in the village, and had heard nothing concerning the symptoms of the casualties other than that bodies were found bloated and grimacing.

12. "Rebels Again Tell of Gas." New York Times. 7 March 1980:

Peshawar, Pakistan, March 6 (Agence France-Presse)--Afghan insurgents charged here today that Soviet forces had used poison gas in their Kunar Valley offensive.

The rebel group called Jamiat Islami issued a statement quoting guerillas arriving here as saying that two helicopters spread "a white smoke" last Sunday over the village of Shigall, and that those "who were surrounded by the cloud shouted that their eyes burned and they quickly died."

At the same time, an account by a person described as a tribal chief in the Kunar area suggested that a handicapping, but not lethal gas had been used. [End New York Times Report.]

13. The US Government has received reports that chemical bombs are being used by Soviet forces in Khanabad, Kama, Konar, Asmar, Zurmat and areas in Paktia Province.

The type of chemical bomb being used in these areas does not kill, rather at first it makes the target individuals dizzy, which is then followed by the individual's passing out. The effectiveness of the weapon lasts between three and four hours. The chemical bombs are dropped from Soviet aircraft, they explode in the air and the chemicals then settle to the ground.

After the Soviets are sure the chemicals have taken effect, Soviet forces arrive in the area either by helicopter or are dropped by parachute. The Soviet forces usually attempt to relieve the rebels of all their weapons, and where possible they take into custody rebel leaders.

14. The US Government has information from Afghan refugees who were from the Konar Valley. They stated that in March, 1980 the Soviets had used chemical agents in the Konar offensive. Refugees state that the chemical agent was "dropped with bombs from air planes." The bombs emitted a green vapor which caused dizziness, nausea, and affected the eyes and throat. Some refugees reported that they had difficulty moving their arms and legs for several hours after being exposed to the chemical agent. No refugees reported deaths caused by the chemical agent.

15. The US Government has reports about the situation in Badakshan province. All official Government functions have ceased, and the population is going to the hills to fight the Soviets. The Soviets are using a type of smoke bomb that is delivered by aircraft in an envelope that explodes on impact and leaves the people of the area unable to see for forty to forty-five minutes.

The following report is from Acropolis (Weekly), Athens, March 11, 1980.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS A VAST ARSENAL OF WAR GASES AND IS TESTING THEM IN AFGHANISTAN," DENOUNCES PEKING IN AN ARTICLE IN THE "PEOPLE'S DAILY", OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

"PEOPLE'S DAILY" REPORTS THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE AT THIS MOMENT ALMOST 100,000 MILITARY SPECIALISTS IN CHEMICAL WARFARE WHILE ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE SOVIET MISSILES HAVE WARHEADS WITH CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES. TO TEST AND IMPROVE THESE DEADLY WEAPONS THE RUSSIANS ARE TRYING THEM OUT ON THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN, DISREGARDING THE GENEVA TREATY WHICH BANS THE USE OF GASES.

SOVIET TROOPS, ADDS THE "PEOPLE'S DAILY", USED THESE GASES IN THE PROVINCE OF KUNAR IN AFGHANISTAN TO KILL MOSLEM GUERRILLAS AND THE AREA INHABITANTS INDISCRIMINATELY.

IN THE MEANTIME, KUNAR SOVIET FORCES AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT UNITS, WITH STRONG COVER FROM RUSSIAN MIGS AND TANKS, HAVE NOW LAUNCHED OPERATIONS IN ANOTHER SOUTHEASTERN PROVINCE OF AFGHANISTAN, WHICH HAS BEEN DOMINATED SO FAR BY THE MOSLEM GUERRILLAS, THEREBY REINFORCING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EXPECTED SPRING ATTACK OF THE RUSSIANS HAS BEGUN AND IS EXPANDING CONTINUALLY.

AFGHAN REFUGEES, WHO ARE FLEEING TO NEIGHBORING PAKISTAN WITH INNUMERABLE DIFFICULTIES, TALK ABOUT A "RAIN OF FIRE" FROM RUSSIAN TANKS AND AIRCRAFT BURNING THEIR VILLAGES. "EVERYTHING WAS A HELL'S FIRE IN THE VILLAGE WHEN WE MANAGED TO LEAVE. NO ONE WAS LEFT TO BURY THE DEAD," RECOUNTED ONE REFUGEE FROM THE VILLAGE OF TSINGAL CHARACTERISTICALLY. "ONE MORNING, SUDDENLY HUNDREDS OF RUSSIAN TANKS APPEARED IN THE SURROUNDING HILLS AND BEGAN TO BOMBARD THE VILLAGE WITH THEIR CANNONS. THE RUSSIANS HAD ALSO POSITIONED TANKS IN ALL THE PATHS SO NO ONE COULD GET AWAY. WE MANAGED TO LEAVE AT NIGHT, CRAWLING THROUGH THE FIELDS. WHEN THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS ENCOUNTERED RESISTANCE FROM THE MUJAHIDEEN (GUERRILLAS), THE AIRCRAFT DROPPED NAPALM AND BURNED THEM"

16. The US Government has reports that on April 8, 1980, after Afghan insurgents had attacked a Soviet base the day before, the Soviets counter-attacked and hit about a dozen villages in the area near the base inflicting many civilian casualties. The Soviets also used gas bombs in these attacks which caused people to fall asleep for about seven hours.

17. April 18, 1980, Associated Press:

Peshawar, Pakistan (AP) -- Refugees from the war in Afghanistan report the Russians have used a variety of gases that caused continuous crying, nausea, temporary paralysis or loss of consciousness for as long as four hours.

But none of the accounts indicate any of the gases are lethal, as US officials in Washington have suggested.

Muhammed Sharif and other Afghan rebels interviewed here in Northwest Pakistan 45 miles from the Afghan border said they knew of no one who suffered permanent physical injury from a Soviet gas attack.

A 28-year-old farmer turned guerrilla, Sharif said Soviet helicopter gunships dropped red, yellow and green gases in late March on Sukhrod, a town in eastern Afghanistan.

"It tasted like pepper--bitter," he said, speaking in his native Pushtu through an interpreter. "I could not get air into my lungs and I gagged for what seemed like 10 minutes. Then I passed out and when I woke two hours later, I found my leg injured by a shell fragment."

The young Afghan was in a small hospital run by a rebel group, recovering from his leg wound. But he said he suffered no after effects from the gas.

Accounts of Soviet gas attacks received by this reporter and by some Western diplomats in Pakistan made no mention of Soviet or Afghan Government troops wearing or carrying gas masks. This appeared to confirm the guerrillas' reports that the Soviet gases, although stronger than tear gas, were not fatal. [End AP article.]

18. The US Government has information from refugees that Soviet forces have been observed using a non-lethal "nerve" agent in Konarha Province, Paktia Province, and the Panjshir area. The agent reportedly causes unconsciousness when inhaled. Soviet forces allegedly use the agent to capture and disarm Afghan insurgent forces.

19. The US Government has received a report from three former Afghan army officers about the use of chemical agents in Afghanistan. All believed that Soviets are using chemical agents against Afghan insurgents.

One of the officers claimed that the Soviets were using chemical agents, reportedly dropped from aircrafts, in Konar. He said he had both heard of and twice seen big canisters, about four feet long and three feet in diameter, which had survived impact. He described the containers as squat cones with one or two handles on pointed ends. The canister reported opened in air, releasing two or three whitish objects the size of a lampshade. Objects disintegrated in air as gas. If a wind was blowing, one did not notice effects of gas.

One officer claimed to have seen a victim of "gas" at the Char Sud Bister (400 bed), Soviet-run army hospital in Kabul. The victim reportedly was only one of many Afghan army victims of Soviet dropped "gas" at Jabha Qala in Parvan Province on April 1. Troops from the 11th Division at Jalalabad reportedly were victims of a friendly pilot error while they were in close proximity of insurgents. Aircraft reportedly dropped a white powder which, victims said, put people to sleep. The source claimed that more than one hundred were killed and many hospitalized. Those hospitalized were not allowed to receive visitors, reportedly to keep the incident from the public. The source said this was first time he had heard of white powder which reportedly, took flesh off the victim's legs, leaving only bones.

The Afghan officers corroborated accounts of chemical warfare readiness/training of Afghan army. One said he had taken a CW course at Herb-i-poantoon (phonetic) military academy. He believed the Afghan army inventory includes four gases stored at Kabul. These are: tear gas; gaz sozinda (buring gas); gaz kafakoninda (choking gas, which disables, but doesn't kill; and gaz kandawar (laughing gas). In Kabul, an Afghan army gas battalion (Kenzai Gaz Kandak) was reportedly once based at Qala Jangi in Waxir Akbar Khan Mine quarter.

One of the officers said that while he was commanding at Asmar, his officers, but not his men, trained in the use of gas, both offensively and defensively. He said the brigade had only one set of protective equipment which was used for purposes of instruction.

The equipment included: mask with plastic hood and hose to filter which was in separate pouch, a coverall, gloves and socks.

Another officer said he had never trained in the use of gas, except to study it academically. He described the effects of gas kofakoninda as lethal, causing eyes to bulge out and those of gas sozinda as burning skin, causing boils. Both descriptions were based on lectures at the Academy. He said he believed the Afghan army has both gases, obtained from the Soviets. He also said the Soviet have brought tank trucks of gas to Afghanistan and that all the Soviets have gas masks, which the Afghan army lacks. One of the six Russian advisors in his brigade he said promised that each Afghan soldier would soon receive masks.

According to this officer, each Afghan division has a gas unit as an integral part. In the 8th division, the gas unit is at Karga, about 14 kilometers west of Kabul. He said that he saw a jeep fitted with "boilers" for dispersing gas at 8th division Headquarters in Kabul about two months ago and that Afghan soldiers were being trained to operate it.

Another officer reported that a Soviet advisor had allegedly said the only way to assist a particular unit under attack was by the use of chemical agents. However, this officer's particular artillery unit never had any chemical agent shells nor did he know first hand of any actual use of chemical agent in combat.

20. A knowledgeable observer who visited Afghan refugees and reported the following in April 1980: In speaking with the refugees, the wounded, the doctor and finally the fighters themselves, we came across three kinds of evidence that the Soviets were indeed using gas.

The first kind of evidence is similar to that gathered from refugees previously. Villagers speak of fire dropping from airplanes which burns fields and destroys structures. They speak about burns, nausea, vomiting and death. Or they tell of persons to whom these things happened.

The second kind of evidence is that from doctors at the Peshawar hospital who tell of patients they have treated for burns caused by what the doctors describe as phosphorous. One doctor was a military physician with the Afghan army. In his mind there was no doubt that his

patients suffered from the use of toxic gas. We did not see any patients with this type of burns. We did see patients whose mental state has been effected by something. But this could be the result of the trauma of war, the loss of family, and sheer shell shock.

The third kind of evidence comes from a gas victim. Unlike villagers whose illiterate backgrounds make them less credible to the Western observer, this victim was referred to as a "doctor" by his friends. He turned out to be a third year medical student. He told of the day, after many hours of besieging a government fortification in Kama, when an aircraft dropped a canister which gave off heavy black smoke. Most of this blew away as a result of the heavy wind that day. But it put him to sleep for at least a half hour as it did his companions. He was convinced that "only the wind and the hand of God saved them from extinction."

While it is very fashionable to doubt the words of victims and refugees, this very attitude may contribute toward a minimizing of the severity of fighting, suffering, and war in Afghanistan. Cynicism on the part of the West, together with a desire not to face the difficult truth and a distaste for Islamic inspired anti-Western (this time Soviet) activities could be the best Soviet psychological weapon in Afghanistan.

21. The US Government has a report that Soviet military forces in Afghanistan have used chemical agents against the insurgent forces in Badakhashan Province and in the Northern Hindu Kush area. The agents were reportedly delivered by bombs dropped from Soviet MIG aircraft. Each aircraft carried two bombs containing the agent. Although no description of the agent was available, death was reported to have resulted from the incident.

22. The US Government has information to confirm the fact that the Soviet Union has deployed decontamination units in forward bases with operational units in Afghanistan.

23. ARTICLE BY PIERRE DE VILLEMAREST,  
FRENCH SOVIEOLOGIST, APPEARING IN APRIL 1980 ISSUE  
OF SWISS MONTHLY "L'IMPACT":

"THE USSR HAS BEGUN CHEMICAL WARFARE"

"THE WEST IS DISARMED IN THE FACE OF THIS NEW THREAT"

"CLOSE TO 100,000 MEN, TRAINED FOR TEN YEARS IN  
CHEMICAL WARFARE, ARE TRYING IT OUT IN AFGHANISTAN. FIFTY PERCENT  
OF THE SOVIET STOCKS ARE STORED AT THE GATES OF EUROPE."

"SINCE MARCH ACCURATE INFORMATION HAS BORNE WITNESS  
THAT HUNDREDS OF 'CASES' WERE UNLOADED AT KABUL AIRPORT DURING  
THE LAST AIRLIFT OF SOVIET REINFORCEMENTS AND MATERIEL.  
ARRIVING BY ILYUCHIN-26 THEY WERE THEN SHIPPED BY TRUCKS AND  
HELICOPTERS TO BASES IN THE CENTER AND ON THE PERIPHERY OF  
AFGHANISTAN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PRIG AND SCUD MISSILE  
LAUNCHERS, AS WELL AS NEW TMS-65 TRUCKS, WERE ARRIVING IN THE  
COUNTRY."

"THERE IS CONFIRMATION THAT THE USSR NO LONGER IS  
PREPARING CHEMICAL WARFARE FOR TOMORROW, BUT ALREADY IS PRACTICING  
IT AGAINST PEOPLES OPPOSED TO HER. IN RECENT YEARS THE MYSTERIOUS  
CASES HAVE BEEN CAMOUFLAGING METAL CONTAINERS FILLED WITH VARIOUS  
EXPERIMENTAL GASSES LOCATED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED BASES IN THE  
USSR STRICTLY RESERVED FOR CHEMICAL UNITS. AND THE TMS-65'S  
ARE NO LESS THAN TRUCKS EQUIPPED TO DECONTAMINATE ANY VEHICLE  
WHICH WAS OPERATED IN A TOXIC ZONE. IN FEBRUARY 1978 IN LAOS,

AGAINST THE KHONG OF THE HIGH PLATEAUS, IN 1979 IN SEVERAL  
CAMBODIAN PROVINCES, THESE GASSES WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST HAMLETS  
AND IN VALLEYS HOSTILE TO THE COMMUNISTS. AND AGAIN IN 1980,  
THIS TIME IN THE CENTER OF AFGHANISTAN IN THE BAMIAN REGION.

"NATO ESTIMATED THE USSR HAD CLOSE TO 400,000 TONS OF  
'CHEMICAL' STOCK. ITS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAD BEEN ALERTED  
FOLLOWING THE YOM KIPPUR WAR WHILE EXAMINING THE TANKS CAPTURED  
BY THE ISRAELIS. ALL HAD ALREADY BEEN EQUIPPED WITH 'NBC'  
(NUCLEAR, BACTERIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL) PROTECTION SYSTEMS. THUS,  
THE USSR WAS TRAINING ITS TROOPS TO DEPLOY AND FIGHT ON AN  
EVENTUALLY TOXIC TERRAIN."

"IN 1979 AND AGAIN IN JANUARY 1980, THE NATO HIGH COMMAND  
WARNED OF THE PERFECTION OF THIS WAR OF TOMORROW WHICH PERMITS,  
WITHOUT DESTROYING THE ADVERSARY'S INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY  
POTENTIAL, THE 'NEUTRALIZATION' OF ITS TROOPS BY A SIMULTANEOUS  
OFFENSIVE OF PROJECTILES (SHELLS, TACTICAL MISSILES, CONTAINERS  
LAUNCHED BY PLANES OR HELICOPTERS) CONTAINING A LETHAL GAS."

"ACCORDING TO THEIR COMPOSITION AND MIXTURES THE  
CLOUDS ARE EITHER COLORLESS OR IN VARIOUS COLORS. THESE ARE  
CALLED SOMAN (OR GD), TOUBAN (OR GA), SARIN, VR-55, PHOSGENE,  
OR ELSE MCN, FOR HYDROGEN-CYANIDE."

"ACCORDING TO THE CASE, THEY ATTACK THE NERVOUS SYSTEM  
AND THE BLOOD VIA ABSORPTION BY THE SKIN, THROUGH THE RESPIRATORY  
SYSTEM OR BY THE EYES, WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, IN A FEW SECONDS BLIND  
THE PILOT OF A PLANE. ACCORDING TO THE GAS OR THE DOSAGE, THEY  
KILL IN TEN MINUTES TO TWO OR THREE HOURS. WHEN IT IS HUMID OR  
SUNNY BUT COLD (FROM 10 TO 15 DEGREES), THEY IMPREGNATE CLOTHING  
AND SHOES AND THEN POISON THE WEAVER. IN COLD WEATHER THEY  
'WAKE UP' WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL ENTERS A BUILDING OR A SHELTER  
AND ARE THEN FATAL. DANGER WILL STEW FROM THIS DURING THE SOVIET  
WARING OFFENSIVE IN AFGHANISTAN."

"VARIOUS SOVIET COMBAT PLANES AND HELICOPTERS ARE  
EQUIPPED TO UTILIZE THEM. STALIN ORGAN TYPE POCKETE, PRIG  
MISSILES (20 TO 40 KILO PAYLOADS) AND SCUD (150 TO 220 KILOS),  
122 AND 152 MM CANNON SHELLS ARE FIRED AT ADVERSARIES' BASES.  
FOLLOWING WHICH EACH PROJECTILE CAN THEN IMPREGNATE AN AVERAGE



OF THREE TO SIX SQUARE KILOMETERS.

"THE AGGRESSOR IMMEDIATELY OCCUPIES THE TERRAIN, SINCE HE IS EQUIPPED TO DO SO. HIS COMBAT GROUPS ARE EQUIPPED WITH MASKS AND EXTREMELY SUPPLE SUITS, LIGHT VEHICLES, CALLED 'CHEMICAL RECONNAISSANCE' VEHICLES, REPORT BY RADIO AND SIGNAL FLAGS CONCERNING THE ENTIRE CONTAMINATED ZONE. THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY TMS-65'S WHICH, IN THREE MINUTES, CAN DECONTAMINATE A TANK OR TRUCK, ETC., OR HEAVY VEHICLES SUCH AS THE ARS-12-U WHICH, ALONE, CARRIES ENOUGH DECONTAMINANT FOR 12 HEAVY TANKS. ITS SUCCESSOR, MORE HIGHLY PERFECTED, THE ARS-14, IS MOUNTED ON THE CHASSIS OF THE ZIL-131, BUILT IN THE USSR SINCE 1972 THANKS TO WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND CREDITS.

"OTHER TRUCKS CAN TREAT IN PLACE—MEN (AND LIGHT MATERIEL) WHO HAVE OCCUPIED PREVIOUSLY 'NEUTRALIZED' TERRAIN AND CAN CLEAN THE TAINTED ENVIRONMENT.

"ACCORDING TO NATO, A THIRD OF THE SOVIET ROCKETS AND MISSILES ARE ARMED WITH CHEMICAL CHARGES AND FIFTY PERCENT OF THE SOVIET MEANS IN THIS FIELD ARE STORED AT THE GATES TO EUROPE. THE EAST GERMANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS WEAPON. LAST YEAR MR. ERICKSON, A BRITISH PROFESSOR AND ONE OF THE GREATEST SPECIALISTS IN THIS FIELD, IF NOT THE ONLY ONE IN CHEMICAL WARFARE SUCH AS THAT FOR WHICH MOSCOW IS PREPARING, PROVIDED PROOF BY CITING SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN MANUALS AND REFERENCES.

"IT WAS IN 1965 THAT THE POLITBURO OF THE USSR DECIDED THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE WOULD BECOME A PART OF ITS PANOPLY, AND IN 1970 THAT IT WAS INTEGRATED INTO VARIOUS MILITARY COMMANDS BOTH WITHIN THE USSR AND THE TROOPS OF THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS. UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL V. K. PIKOLOV, ASSISTED BY A DOZEN GENERALS, THE TROOPS TO BE TRAINED THIS YEAR WILL REACH A TOTAL OF 100,000 MEN.

"ACCORDING TO NECESSITY, A VERY FLEXIBLE REGULATION PERMITS THE INTEGRATION OF ONE OR SEVERAL CHEMICAL UNITS INTO A COMPANY, A DIVISION, AN ARMY OR, ON A FRONT, INTO A GROUP OF ARMIES. THESE UNITS, OF COURSE, COVER THE GAMUT SET FORTH ABOVE: RECONNAISSANCE GROUPS, DECONTAMINATION SQUADS AND CHEMICAL MEDICAL UNITS.

"FEWER THAN 2000 AMERICANS HAVE FAMILIARITY WITH AND

---

SOME TRAINING FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE. IT WAS BELIEVED, IN THE EUPHORIA OF THE 1972 SALT AGREEMENTS, FOLLOWED BY THE AGREEMENTS AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE SIGNED IN 1975 BY SEVERAL POWERS, INCLUDING THE USSR, THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE HAD BECOME 'UNTHINKABLE'. BUT MOSCOW WAS THE HABIT OF FORESEEING AND EVEN PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THE 'UNTHINKABLE'."

---

24. Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 10 Apr 80

Kabul, April 10, TASS--The following statement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been released here:

"The imperialist circles of the United States and the United Kingdom, Chinese hegemonists and their henchmen in the reactionary circles of other countries, continue, with reliance on the bases in countries neighboring on Afghanistan, their undeclared war against the Afghan people. Having united in an unruly alliance, these forces are doing their utmost to prevent a peaceful life of the Afghan people. They do not stop short of any means in the pursuit of their dark designs, using any dirty and vile methods resolutely condemned by the world public, by the United Nations Organization and by all democratic countries. As is confirmed by the facts and events of the recent days, in their armed struggle against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, a sovereign state--member of the United Nations and of the nonalignment movement, they are resorting to the monstrous and barbarous chemical weapons.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan considers it to be its duty to inform the Moslem people of Afghanistan, all the peoples, national and progressive forces of the world and all states of the following:

On March 25th this year, a patrolling unit of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan discovered in the Herat Province and routed a diversionist gang infiltrated into Afghanistan from abroad. Weapons captured during this operation include chemical hand grenades made in the United States which cause an immediate poisoning in people and stable environmental contamination. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is in the possession of irrefutable evidence to the effect that a diversionist gang infiltrated into Afghan territory which included foreign military was armed with the above grenades. Afghanistan's Government express its readiness to make an examination, together with the competent representatives of the world community, of the chemical grenades made in the United States and to investigate into the circumstances of their use by the gangs of mercenaries infiltrated into Afghanistan from abroad.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan considers it necessary to stress that, as is well known, the United States, despite repeated protests of the international public, had utilized on a broad scale different types of chemical weapons in its criminal war in Vietnam, which caused deaths among civilian population and did serious damage to the environment. It is clearly no coincidence that some time ago U.S. mass media controlled by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon raised a hullabaloo over an alleged use against bandits in Afghanistan of poisonous chemicals. Moreover, U.S. press as well as the press of some of the countries of Western Europe asserts that the limited contingent of Soviet troops which is in Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan Government and in accordance with international law and the U.N. Charter, allegedly uses chemical weapons against innocent population. These assertions are nothing else than vile calumny. At present, in the light of the latest facts, the aim of that noisy propagandist campaign is becoming resolutely clear. It was to hide the criminal acts of the United States behind a smoke-screen of bare-worded assertions.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan expresses its profound indignation and resolutely protests against the equipment by internationalist imperialism and reactionaries of the gangs and mercenaries infiltrated into our country with chemical weapons the use of which against innocent civilian population constitutes an act of unheard-of vandalism.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan draws the attention of the Governments of the neighbouring countries which place their territories at the disposal of others for carrying out subversive acts against the peaceful Afghanistan and warns them that they are assuming a very heavy responsibility by allowing the U.S. espionage departments to station in their territories chemical weapons with which bandits and mercenaries are being equipped.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan calls on all the democratic states, the national and progressive movement, the whole of the international community to condemn the criminal acts of U.S. imperialist circles in Afghanistan, to prevent implementation of their sinister designs spearheaded against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

25. Moscow KHASHTA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Apr 90, 3

special correspondent Col 7. Izgarnev "Poisoners: The United States is Equipping the Afghan Insurgents With Chemical Weapons"

Kabul, April--The Western press and radio are spreading lies alleging that Soviet troops are using toxins in Afghanistan. The Western information organs do not, of course, have examples of this. Many people both in Afghanistan and beyond are rightly asking: Why are the imperialists spreading dirty lies about the Soviet Union and its servicemen? After all, the world public realized long ago that if imperialist propaganda starts accusing its opponents of something, that means that it has a finger in the pie itself. And that is what has happened in this case.

While Western mass information organs and their Beijing yes-men were trying to cast aspersions on Soviet servicemen in Afghanistan, U.S. and British imperialist circles, the Chinese hegemonists and their henchmen from world reaction, using bases on the territory of countries adjacent to Afghanistan, continued and are still continuing to wage an undeclared war against the Afghan people. In their hatred for the young republic the aggressors have gone so far as to start to supply chemical weapons to the gangs of terrorists dispatched to the territory of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

The participants in a press conference held in Kabul were shown many models of weapons, including grenades filled with the CS toxin. The chemical grenades, the English inscription on them attests, were produced at the Salisbury Federal Laboratory (Pennsylvania) in 1978. How did these chemical grenades and other weapons come to be in the hall where the press conference was taking place? On 25 March in the region of point 1,086 [v rayone otmečki 1,086] a little over 60 km northwest of the city of Herat, an Afghan patrol defeated a gang of 27 insurgents traveling on a bus which had penetrated the country from abroad. The bus driver and two rebels were taken prisoner. One prisoner subsequently died of his wounds. Another—a citizen of a foreign state, (Makhdī Bakhrañ Ali Madzhod)—is alive. The foreign terrorist was presented with the bus driver, called (Gulyan Bakhni), to those taking part in the press conference. Incidentally, a membership card of the reactionary "Islamic movement of Afghanistan" organization created abroad was found on him.

(Bakhrañ Ali) confirmed that all members of the terrorist gang were recruited, underwent training and received weapons abroad and then made their way into Afghanistan by night. In the fighting against the patrol subunit of the people's armed forces of the DRA many of them died. The bus and most of the ammunition were burned. But some, including the chemical grenades, survived intact.

Not long before the press conference, together with Afghan experts and journalists, I visited the place where the events of 25 March were played out. The burned-out bus stood in a desert gully. It belonged to a private owner, one (Khakim). (Gulyan Bakhni) worked for him as a driver and made journeys from the city to the border. At the scene of the fighting I heard stories of a foreign terrorist and bus driver brought here. Patrol commander senior captain (Said Yusuf) spoke there. [paragraph continues]

It is obvious from (Bakhrañ Ali's) evidence that their entire group, armed with chemical weapons, had a clear idea of how to use them and for what purpose. Indeed, (Bakhrañ Ali) described all this in detail to those taking part in the press conference. At the press conference documentary movies taken during the investigation both where the fighting occurred and where the chemical grenades were seized were examined. In particular examination showed that CS is a powerful toxin. The U.S. aggressors' barbaric use of this toxin in Vietnam is not without consequences even now. Even now the survivors suffer from chronic diseases.

At the press conference specialists were asked: Are there means of curing the victims of the CS toxin? The reply followed: As far as we know, such means do not yet exist. That is the sort of weapon the U.S. imperialists are supplying to those who are killing the children, women and old men of free Afghanistan and seeking to stifle the Afghan revolution. But if there are as yet no means of curing the effects of CS, there is a reliable, powerful means of preventing its use against the people of Afghanistan. This is their unity, their vigilance, their strengthening friendship with their great northern neighbor who held out a hand of selfless fraternal aid at a moment of difficulty for the country.

All progressive mankind unanimously condemns the dirty intrigues of the enemies of the Afghan people, the enemies of peace and progress who have decided to use in the struggle against the Afghan revolution a barbaric weapon of mass destruction—a chemical weapon.

On 2 March this year at a press conference U.S. Secretary of State G. Vance, answering a correspondents' question as to whether the United States would help the rebels in Afghanistan, replied:

"I will refrain from answering that question."

It would be interesting to know how the U.S. secretary of state would answer this question now.

6. This article appeared in The Nigerian Tide, (daily), Lagos, 21 APR 1980

# AFGHANISTAN DEMANDS AN ATROCITIES PROBE

BEGIN TEXT: "THE GROWING DOSSIER EMERGING FROM AFGHANISTAN GIVING RISE TO INCREASING DEMANDS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE SOVIET INVADING FORCES.

"THE ALREADY WIDESPREAD DISQUIET WAS SHARPENED BY EVIDENCE, SAID TO HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM AFGHAN REFUGEES, WHICH WAS PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS AND REPEATED LATER IN A TELEVISION BROADCAST. EVEN EARLIER, A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAD DECIDED TO RAISE THE ISSUE BY SUBMITTING QUESTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY'S FOREIGN MINISTER.

"THIS SUGGESTS THAT IN VIEW OF MEDIA REPORTS OF THE USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE BY THE USSR IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO QUEL THE AFGHAN PEOPLE, A COMPLAINT SHOULD BE LODGED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SO THAT AN INVESTIGATION COULD BE INITIATED. (THE QUESTION RECALLS THAT BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND AFGHANISTAN HAD RATIFIED THE 1972 CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL AND TOXIC WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION).

"INDICATIONS THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE WAS BEING RESORTED TO IN AFGHANISTAN WAS INCLUDED IN THE EVIDENCE SUBMITTED BY MR. MICHAEL BARRY, AN ISLAMIC STUDIES RESEARCHER AT A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY. HE WAS SENT TO PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN BY THE PARIS BASED INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO INTERVIEW SOME OF THE 600,000 REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED FROM AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE

FIRST OF THE MARXIST COUPS THERE TWO YEARS AGO.

"ACCORDING TO MR. BARRY, WHO SAID THAT HE SPOKE ALL THREE AFGHAN LANGUAGES, THE ACCOUNTS HE HAD HEARD INDICATED THAT VARIOUS TYPES OF TOXIC AGENTS WERE BEING USED.

"IN ONE INCIDENT IN WHICH A SOVIET HELICOPTER DROPPED GAS ON A VILLAGE, 13 PEOPLE DIED WHILE THOSE WHO SURVIVED WERE PARALYSED. OTHER VILLAGES HAD BEEN SPRAYED WITH A GAS WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE LEFT THE VICTIMS HELPLESS. THE RUSSIANS HAD ALSO BEEN ACCUSED OF SHOWERING THE MUJAHIDEEN (FREEDOM-FIGHTERS) WITH A LIQUID WHICH CAUSED SO MUCH PAIN THAT THEY DROPPED THEIR RIFLES.

"MR. BARRY SAID THAT THE REFUGEES ALSO TOLD OF A WIDE RANGE OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE OCCUPYING FORCES OR THE MURDER REGIME IN KABUL.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THEY CLAIMED THAT THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN PRISONERS HAD BEEN BURIED ALIVE BY SOVIET TROOPS. THEY WERE BLINDFOLDED AND PUSHED INTO TRENCHES WHICH WERE THEN FILLED IN BY BULLDOZERS. LIVE BURIALS HAD BECOME A MATTER OF ROUTINE.

"AMONG OTHER ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE REFUGEES WAS THAT SOME PRISONERS HAD BEEN THROWN INTO HUGE CESSPOOLS OUTSIDE THE MAIN PRISON NEAR KABUL, AND THAT OTHER INMATES SAW THEM DROWN IN EXCREMENT. AFTERWARDS, THE VICTIMS' WIVES WERE TOLD TO LOOK FOR THEIR HUSBANDS' BODIES, AND THE WEeping WOMEN WERE SEEN CRODDING IN THE CESSPOOL WITH LONG STICKS." END TEXT.

27. PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS (Manila) April 19, 1980

## Soviets using napalm, gas vs. Afghan rebels

LONDON, April 18 Soviet troops in helicopters are dropping napalm and chemical gas on Afghan villages to quell a rebellion by Muslim tribesmen and have burned out hundreds of settlements and farms, an Afghan rebel leader claimed here Thursday.

Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan told a news conference in a London hotel that the Soviets have snatched hundreds of Afghans from their villages in helicopter sweeps in an apparent bid to snuff out opposition.

There was no independent confirmation of Rabbani's claims.

RABBANI, whose group is one of 2 half-dozen major rebel outfits battling the Soviet forces and the Moscow-backed Afghan army, appealed to Muslim nations to help the poorly-equipped tribesmen.

"We need all the help we can get and I appeal to all Muslim nations to help us," he said.

"We don't need troops. We have all the manpower we need. What we lack is weapons."

He stressed: "So far, we have neither received weapons from abroad nor has any other help been

given to the struggle for our liberation. What weapons the liberation movement is using were captured from regular Afghan government troops or from the Russian invaders."

RABBANI is here at the invitation of Saleh Azam, secretary-general of the Islamic Council of Europe. He attended the International Conference on the Message of the Prophet Muhammad, organized by the council and sponsored by the Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Conference.

Rabbani lives in Peshawar, Pakistan, where the alliance has its headquarters. He went into exile in 1974.

He said plans to set up an Afghan government-in-exile are being discussed, but gave no details.

He said the Soviets' helicopter raids are among new tactics they are using to combat opposition by the Muslim rebels.

"Because they only control the cities and the highways, they're sending out fleets of helicopters into our villages and lifting peasants and workers wholesale and taking them to the Soviet Union where they are holding them in labor camps," he claimed (AP)

28. LONDON BBC WORLD SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1500 GMT 23 APR 88  
FROM "RADIO NEWSREEL")

(TEXT) THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN ARE USING GAS AGAINST THEIR GUERRILLA OPPONENTS IN DISSIDENT AREAS. SOME REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A FORM OF NERVE GAS HAS BEEN USED, WHILE OTHERS MAKE IT SEEM MORE LIKELY THAT SOVIET TROOPS ARE EMPLOYING SOMETHING ALTOGETHER Milder, A SORT OF HOT CONTROL GAS. TYNE MASON HAS BEEN TALKING TO SOME OF THOSE BEATING AFGHAN REFUGEES IN THE PAKISTANI FRONTIER TOWN OF PESHAWAR FROM WHERE HE SENT US THIS REPORT.

MOST OF THESE REPORTS ARE HEARSAY, AND SINCE THEY MOSTLY SPEAK OF GASES THAT CAUSE TEMPORARY DISABILITY IT IS NOT EASY TO FIND VICTIMS WHO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO PAKISTAN FOR TREATMENT. ONE QUALIFIED OBSERVER WHO SAID HE HAD SEEN SUCH CASES, HOWEVER, IS A DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF THE HOSPITAL FOR WOUNDED GUERRILLAS RUN BY ONE OF THE REBEL GROUPS BASED IN PESHAWAR. HE TOLD ME THAT IN THE PAST HE HAD SEEN FOUR OR FIVE CASES OF GAS POISONING WHICH AFTER EXAMINATION HE PASSED ON TO LOCAL CIVIL HOSPITALS FOR TREATMENT.

THE SYMPTOMS HE DESCRIBED WERE ASPHYXIA, VOMITING, SALIVATION, DIZZINESS AND BURNS TO THE SKIN. THE EFFECTS HE SAID COULD PERSIST FOR UP TO A MONTH WITH CONTINUING DIZZINESS AS WELL AS HEADACHES AND LOSS OF APPETITE. THIS DOCTOR, WHO SAID HE HAD STUDIED MILITARY METHODS, IDENTIFIED THE GAS RESPONSIBLE AS BELONGING TO THE ORGANIC PHOSPHORUS GROUP. HE SAID SUCH GASES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF A MODERATE ACTION, SO A HEAVY DOSE COULD KILL.

THE CASES SEEN BY THIS DOCTOR CAME FROM KONAR PROVINCE WHERE THE SOVIET-BACKED REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN LAUNCHED A COUNTEROFFENSIVE AGAINST GUERRILLAS EARLY IN MARCH. CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH GAS IS BEING USED COMES FROM FOREIGN RELIEF WORKERS WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN ABOUT TWO DOZEN CASES IN VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS DURING THE PAST WEEKS. ONE IS A MAN AGED PERHAPS IN HIS FIFTIES WHO IS STILL SUFFERING THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS ATTACKS ABOUT A MONTH AGO IN KONAR. HE DESCRIBES A GREEN-COLORED GAS DROPPED BY HELICOPTER. IT ROLLED DOWN THE HILLSIDE, HE SAID, AND ANYONE IN CONTACT WITH IT QUICKLY BECAME UNCONSCIOUS, AND ACCORDING TO THIS MAN, ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME.

29. Prague PRAVE in Czech. 13 Apr 60

[Article signed (HR): "Barbarousness Unlimited"]

[Cont.] One of the armed terrorist gangs sent by the enemies of the Afghan revolution from bases in Pakistan to raid areas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in which people's power has been attaining increasing success, was liquidated a few days ago. This time, however, it emerged that the counterrevolutionaries were not equipped with the usual conventional arms but were in possession of a much more treacherous weapon. The diversionist group had U.S.-made chemical grenades at its disposal.

Shortly afterwards the weapons of the liquidated terrorists were made available for inspection by journalists, who also witnessed their impact on test animals. These barbarous weapons, the chemical grenades of the GS 517 type, had already been tested many times by the U.S. Army during its long and brutal aggression in Vietnam. There, too, they had demonstrated not only their immediate deadly effects on the psychological state of human beings, but also the fact that they bring about long-range genetic changes in the future generation.

This time, those barbarous chemical weapons, condemned many times by the world public, were to be deployed against the peaceful Afghan civilian population, whose "offenses" in the eyes of imperialists and Nazis is their wish to lead their lives according to their own ideas. Thanks to prompt action by the Afghan Armed Forces, the bandits were unable to make use of those weapons in Herat Province, where they were rendered harmless. However, it cannot be excluded that other terrorists also are armed with U.S.-made chemical grenades, terrorists who after the end of the winter season are being sent en masse into Afghan territory.

Those responsible for similar actions--how they must hate the Afghan revolution! Moreover, the ruling circles in the imperialist countries again proved that in their efforts to thwart that revolution they will cast aside all beautiful words about humanness and peace. They are waging an undeclared war against the Afghan people and will not stop at using even the most barbarous means. But the evil plans to asphyxiate the revolution in the smoke of poisonous combat gases cannot stop the Afghan people's march on their road but they can only bring to the authors of those plans, and to those who are carrying them out, a resolute condemnation on the part of the entire world democratic public.

30. PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER  
27 April 1980

## The Afghan rebel tells of choking gas

By Richard Ben Cramer

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — For 10 days after the gas, Mohammed Ashraf did not speak.

For 10 days after a rocket streaking down from a Soviet helicopter blew apart his hillside gun nest, after the copier's machine guns cut a path up one leg and through the chest of his friend who lay three feet away, after the air was filled with a greenish haze that scraped in his eyes and burned in his nose, enraged him, and yet made him dozy and still, and left him "crazy, a sleep-man, with no words and no control...."

For 10 days, while his friends, Afghan guerrillas like him, took him from that hillside and fed him yogurt and washed his eyes and showed him to a doctor who shrugged; while his friends led him, supported him over the mountains to Pakistan; while his friends found his brothers who came and took him to a refugee camp where he saw, for the first time in two years, his wife and his two little sons; 10 days, he did not speak....

And his sons did not know him and ran away; his wife said, "Are you alive?" And he lay alone in the dim light of one lantern....

Then Mohammed Ashraf spoke.

"Kill!" he screamed.

"Get them!"

"Kill them!"

"Allah!"

"Down!"

"Get DOWN!"

"HELICOPTERS!"

"The gas! He was crazy," his brother said. "We took him to the hospital."

"I'm convinced they're using gas," Robin MacAlpine said. After two months as field coordinator for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees in Peshawar, he has learned to distinguish gas reports that make sense from those told only to attract attention or sympathy.

"Some kind of gas, yes," he said. "We heard enough reports."

The State Department and the CIA also are convinced that the Soviets are using gas warfare in their attempt to "pacify" the Afghans.

American officials distinguish gas that kills or causes permanent injury from less lethal gas that has temporary effects. They say they have found the Soviet Union used some gas. But they say they cannot confirm "poisonous reports" from the Soviets have said gas that kills.

Soviet government statements

make no distinction. They deny it all. On its face, the claim that gas is being used is difficult to prove. Who lives to claim, with any truth, that "they used lethal gas on me?"

Reports about nerve gas, even gas with temporary effects, are necessarily fuzzy. They stop somewhere in the middle, usually with the statement "... after that, I don't know what happened."

But there is the smell of gas here, in this dusty border city where the Afghan dispossessed gather.

There are refugee workers who say they know the gas stories are true.

There are doctors who say they have treated many patients for sickness caused by chemical poisons.

There is a certain coherence in the cloud of allegation that wafts from the refugee camps and the councils of the Islamic guerrillas.

It is hard for the Afghans to believe that more proof could be required.

"Those bloody Russians bomb the village and it is not important that the children and women die in the houses," said Jamal Ahmed, a member of Hezbi-Islami, one of the major guerrilla forces. "They come with helicopters and tanks to kill all the people. These things you know. They use any way to kill our people. Why you not believe they (would be) using their gas?"

It is an argument made often in Pakistan's border zone, where there are more than 700,000 refugees, each a character witness on the conduct of the Soviet Union and the Afghan governments that the Soviets have backed.

Visit any of the hundreds of squatter camps and you will hear stories of villages smashed or burned, of relatives arrested, vanished or killed. Walk through one hospital ward where a 22-year-old woman, with a baby two months from birth in her belly, stares ahead with one lovely eye while the missing side of her face tells mutely of the bomb shard that flew through her window one night or, in another hospital ward, listen to one man, Mohammed Ashraf, as he starts to speak in earnest, listen to his family at their camp, talking of war, Russians and gas, with leathery and with bitterness, but without surprise.

"This is the first time, speaking with you. This is my first big speak."

Mohammed Ashraf looked a little uncertain. He did not know how it would go.

"In these days, I am alone. I don't speak with anyone. I don't want to speak to anyone."

"When I am speaking with anyone, I am not controlling. I am not thinking with you. I am not controlling. I am continuously speaking with you. I am not like anyone...."

His eyes closed briefly, tightly, as if with some bad memory. He propped up two fingers at the shallow end of his chest, then the fingers danced

up to touch a stray black curl back under his turban. His eyes opened and they were hard, deep blue.

"In these two years, I don't see my parents and my family...."

There were gods among the patients — sick, burned or wounded guerrillas who had gathered to hear. His story was much like theirs.

"I was a junior officer in the army in Barikot District, in Konar Province, when Tarakki (Nour Mohammed Tarakki, the first of the Soviets' client prime ministers) took the power."

"After Tarakki came, I saw in one month that he protects the infidel. I see that Russian official commands us. And when I see that there is no Afghan commands as I turn my machine gun against them, and I escape...."

He escaped with 65 fellow soldiers. They crossed over to join Islam's crusaders, mujaheddin, as they are called here, with 65 Kalashnikov rifles and five rocket launchers.

For almost two years, he has fought in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. Now, 24, he has an old man's supply of stories.

He told of victories and narrow scrapes.

### Tanks taken

Once, his unit captured two Soviet tanks when mujaheddin leapt onto the tanks and killed the soldiers inside. Those tanks, still in working order, later helped win Lalpor, a district capital, for the mujaheddin.

Once, Mohammed Ashraf got trapped by advancing enemy troops. He had to spend two days in a tree with no food and one canteen of water. He descended and escaped by dark only after the fear of starvation overcame his fear of the odds against him.

He passed over, matter-of-factly, the messiness of the mujahed's life. Who in that ward did not know of this?

"The most problem: No tea, no bread...."

The guerrillas ate meat when there were goats or sheep about. They got fish to eat raw by tossing grenades into the rivers and collecting the corpses that rose to the surface. For the most part, food was berries and leaves from a bush called charnagh.

Yet, he insisted, with quiet pride, there was progress.

"When I begin to fight, two years ago, we are fighting with rifles, old rifles, 19th-century rifles with the powder. Now we have modern weapons. Kalashnikov, rocket launchers, and we have taken tanks...."

So it was two weeks ago, in Garm District, that he and his fellow mujaheddin a mother of a tank. There were about 200 mujaheddin. A few had rocket launchers, a couple of anti-aircraft of 500 meters, some fighting with their bare hands.

Mohammed Ashraf signaled a de-





Mohammed Ashraf, an Afghan rebel, who says the Soviets are using chemical warfare

shake, an aged Soviet machine gun, in a nest near the top of a rock strewn hill.

"We tried to shoot the helicopters. There were eight helicopters flying over and over. When they would attack toward us, we had to get down. They shoot their rockets to us. When they passed and they turn around, we would try to shoot them...."

He was down and never saw the rocket coming toward the hill. The explosion wrecked the shake. When Mohammed Ashraf looked up, the helicopter was above and a smacking path of lead cut his shake partner in two.

"He was Zabet Mohammed Saber...." he said, and he said the name slowly again to make sure his friend's death was recorded. Zabet Mohammed Saber.... martyr....

"...At that time, I felt the gas. I saw the green. The air was green. I wet my cloth from my water bottle and I put it on my face. The water coming from my nose and eyes. There were some mujahideen are sleeping from this gas... like fire in my eyes... I am not knowing...."

His words slowed, and then:

"...After that, I don't know...."

His friends took him to a village, Naugumai. They washed him, let him yogurt and water....

"I don't know about this yogurt," Mohammed Ashraf said. "But friends say, 'We got you yogurt.' Exactly, I don't know...."

"For three days continuously, I don't know... I don't know myself...."

He passed and cut his eyes down. With shame!

"I can't control myself in this time. I dirtied myself. People had to tell me, 'Your clothes stink....'"

"Then, they bring me to Peshawar...."

Dashza Ashraf lived a simple life in Sorkhrood, her village near Jalalabad, before the bombing began.

Her two sons, the house, the woman of the family, the stream for washing and drawing water, the oven for making bread: these things she knew, and what else was needed?

If her husband, Mohammed Ashraf, was gone, fighting for the army, and then against the army, this was to be expected. And she, who had seen him seldom since their marriage seven years ago, was no worse off than most

of the women, wives of husbands who fight.

Then, five months ago, the Afghan Air Force moved in on Sorkhrood and the family was forced to flee. (The brothers still display mementos: knife-like pieces from the anti-personnel bombs. "They drop this bomb and the knives fly," said a brother, Abdel Ader, "and for 100 meters on any side, all of the humans, they are injured....")

Now, in Wursak refugee camp, a half-hour from Peshawar, life for Dashza Ashraf is hardly simple. The people of the camp are pawns in a complex game for geopolitical power. The conditions of daily life (procurement of tents or food, for example) are controlled by arcane requirements for Pakistani aid.

But Dashza Ashraf knows little of these complications.

What does she think of the Soviet Union?

"My husband does not like it, so I do not like it."

How does the family get food?

"Mr. Arab and Mr. America give it to us."

At 22, she is a handsome woman, the most handsome of all the women who gathered in a room at the camp to jabber about the visitor's dress and proffer babies to the camera.

She has a quick smile that displays white teeth and broad cheekbones. She talked without hesitation, even insistently, until her husband came into the room. Then she looked down and giggled, and let him do most of the talking.

With her husband in the room, she was most reticent to talk of the night when she saw him for the first time in two years. She seemed always to tell half of the story, and then....

"I was weeping," she recalled. "After two years, I saw him, so I was not laughing. I was crying. I thought he died.... I kissed his hand.... I asked, 'Are you alive?'"

And then....?

"I had to leave...."

She was asked again: What happened?

"I could not talk to him. I got sick...."

She was asked again. She looked up at Mohammed Ashraf left the room, and she was among women again.

She became more explicit. "It was the menstruation," she said. It would have been heaven, a sin according to Islam, to talk to him for the next four or five days.

She kept with fair words....

hammered Ashraf started shouting on his bed. She heard him screaming, as if he were still fighting the Soviets.

His brothers tried to calm her, to explain to her about the gas, about the war. Still, she understood little about what happened to her husband.

"When he came, his mind did not work because... Razimas beat him."

She now understood that Mohammed Ashraf will leave when he is well to fight again. And she is not afraid.

"My husband is a brave man. But even if he dies, never mind," Dushas Ashraf said. "I am here, I will do hard work here... I am Muslim."

That night, I tried to talk to the wife of Mohammed Ashraf. To calm her, to tell her it was only because of the gas...

Abdel Oader, 25, one of the family's eight brothers, also was an army man. He switched to the side of the mujaheddin five months ago, when the rest of the family got safely to Pakistan.

"I explained to her that he must fight, that he must be martyr. I told her, 'Be still, do not be sad. It is not important for us. If we will die in holy war, we live in paradise.'"

"She crying. The whole family crying. The children with the mother, crying...."

"I took him to the hospital. We did not know what to do, what this gas do to him."

At the hospital, they treated him with antibiotics, vitamins and a tranquilizing drug. ("We have many such cases," said Dr. Mariolika, the physician in charge of the Herbi-Islam hospital. "I know what poisons do. I could tell from examining him that he had been gassed....")

The family now shows the drugs, in bottles labeled with English that none of them can read.

In the middle of the room, surrounded by brothers, some cousins, nephews and one white-bearded uncle, Mohammed Ashraf could only listen curiously as they talked about him.

He was asked what the doctor told him about the medicine. "At that time, I was not knowing," he said with a little shrug.

He said he feels better now, though speech fails him at times.

"I do not want to be in Pakistan," he said. "I will go back. I am going. In these three days, our commander will prepare for us to go to Jalalabad, to attack on Jalalabad."

"I will go back to fight... or to be martyr."

The whole family went outside to see off the visitors. Someone ran to fetch Mohammed Ashraf's 15-year-old son.

Mohammed Ashraf reached for the boy, who trembled and ducked his tiny brown head as, sought shelter behind the mother's skirt.

"He does not know," said Mohammed Ashraf, slightly apologetic. "If he knew, he would come to his father."

He smiled toward the little boy, as if someone will tell him "Your father was martyr."

Then he turned for a last glance and a final wave goodbye. Then, the boy, the mother and Mohammed Ashraf.

April 29, 1980

## NORWEGIAN BISHOP: SOVIETS USING GAS

SOVIET BLAMES ATTACKED US WITH POISON GAS! THIS IS THE TESTIMONY COMING FROM AFGHANISTANI REFUGEES WHO HAVE COME TO PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO THE REFUGEES A LARGE NUMBER OF AFGHANISTANIS HAVE BEEN KILLED AS A RESULT OF SOVIET CHEMICAL WARFARE. THE NORWEGIAN BISHOP ANNE RUUVINEN IS ASSISTING WITH EMERGENCY RELIEF AMONG THE REFUGEES WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THE STORIES THAT THE REFUGEES ARE TELLING ARE CORRECT. A "THE EYEWITNESS-TESTIMONIES ARE SO EXTREMELY SIMILAR THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR DOUBT," SAYS RUUVIN.

BISHOP RUUVINEN WHO IS LEADING THE EMERGENCY AID ORGANIZATION "INTERNALE COMMITTEES", IS WORKING WITH THE AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. RUUVINEN SPOKE LAST WEEK WITH MANY OF THE REFUGEES WHO TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD BEEN THE TARGET OF GAS ATTACKS.

SEVERAL OF THE REFUGEES RUUVINEN SPOKE WITH SAID THAT THE GAS HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM A PLANE. TWO REFUGEES SAID THEY BLACKED OUT WHEN THE GAS CLOUD GOT NEAR THEM. THEY CAME AROUND SOME TIME LATER AND SAW MANY DEAD LYING AROUND THEM. OTHER REFUGEES HAVE TOLD RUUVINEN THAT THEY HAVE SEEN REFUGEE GROUPS AT A DISTANCE AWAY ATTACKED BY GAS. THE GAS HAS BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE. THERE ARE MANY WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED.

FROM MANY AREAS THERE HAVE LATELY ARRIVED REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE USING OUTLAWED POISON GASES AGAINST THE MUSLIM INSURGENTS AND CIVILIAN REFUGEES IN AFGHANISTAN. AT PRESENT THERE IS NO DEFINITE MEDICAL PROOF. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THIS IS THAT THE PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES ARE SPREAD ALL OVER THE DIFFICULT BORDER TERRAIN WHERE THEY RECEIVE THE REFUGEES AND GIVE THEM IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION DAGHLAET HAS RECEIVED THE PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES ARE NOT ESPECIALLY EAGER TO INVESTIGATE THE CLAIMS OF GAS ATTACK OUT OF FEAR OF A GREATER CONFRONTATION WITH THE RUSSIANS.

REPORTS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS DEFINITELY INDICATE THAT THE SOVIET OCCUPATION FORCES, TO A GREATER AND GREATER DEGREE, ARE ATTACKING BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY GROUPS WITH HELICOPTERS AND PLANES. CIVILIAN REFUGEE GROUPS ON THEIR WAY TO PAKISTAN ARE BEING SHOT AT BY SOVIET M24 HELICOPTERS. SAYS RUUVINEN, "A LARGE NUMBER OF THE REFUGEES NOW COMING OVER THE BORDER TO PAKISTAN HAVE GRIEVOUS WOUNDS AND THE NUMBER OF INJURED CONTINUES TO GROW. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE CIVILIANS TO A GREATER AND GREATER DEGREE ARE BEING PICKED OUT FOR MILITARY ATTACK."

THE STREAM OF REFUGEES TO PAKISTAN HAS ALSO INCREASED DRAMATICALLY SINCE THE ICY GRIP OF WINTER HAS LOOSENED FROM THE AFGHANISTANI MOUNTAIN RANGERS. THE NUMBERS BISHOP RUUVINEN HAS INDICATED THAT BETWEEN 80 AND 100 THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE FLED FROM AFGHANISTAN IN THE MONTH OF APRIL ALONE. THE OFFICIAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES IS NOT ABOUT 800,000. IF YOU ALSO COUNT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED, AND THOSE WHO ARE SPREAD

AROUND IN THE OUTER MOUNTAIN AREAS, THE TOTAL FIGURE WOULD PROBABLY BE ABOUT 1 MILLION.

RUUVINEN SAYS THAT BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT HE FEARS THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES WILL APPROACH 2 MILLION. THE REFUGEE NUMBER HAS GROWN BECAUSE THE WILDER CLIMATE HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE AND ALSO BECAUSE OF THE STEADILY INCREASING ATTACKS. EVEN IF THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN THEIR MASSIVE SPRING OFFENSIVE, THEY HAVE NONETHELESS BEGUN FRIGHTFUL ATTACKS AGAINST MANY OF THE GUERRILLA AREAS JUST IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM PAKISTAN THE GUERRILLAS HAVE ALSO STOPPED UP THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE DIFFERENT GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES CLAIM TO HAVE BETWEEN 3 AND 5 THOUSAND SMALL GROUPS FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN. ACCORDING TO THE GUERRILLA GROUPS THEIR GREATEST PROBLEM IS THEIR POOR WEAPONS. MOST OF THE SOLDIERS HAVE ONLY HAND WEAPONS AND THERE IS NO PROOF, FOR THOSE WHO INSIST THAT THIS IS TRUE, THAT THE GUERRILLAS HAVE RECEIVED HEAVY WEAPONS FROM THE US AND CHINA. IF THE GUERRILLAS GOT THE ANTI-TANK AND ROCKET WEAPONS THEY NEED, THEY COULD HOLD THE RUSSIANS AT BAY, SAYS AN OBSERVER IN PAKISTAN. IF THEY CONTINUE TO FIGHT WITH HAND WEAPONS ONLY, THE SITUATION IN THE LONG RUN WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

THE INDIA TELEGRAM BUREAU (PTI) REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT THE SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE PLACED BALLISTIC ROCKETS WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS ALONG THE BORDER WITH IRAN. THIS REPORT IS NOT CONFIRMED.

32. LE FIGARO-MAGAZINE, FRIDAY, 23 MAY 1980

THE TRUTH ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

PEOPLE BURNED, GASSED, BURIED ALIVE...I CONFIRM IT. BY MIKE BARRY  
(AN EXCERPT)

Gas

Statement by Col-Akbâr, age 50, from the village of Shinkorak in Konar Province. Recorded in Farsi and Pushtu at the Khâzana camp in Pakistan.

"On the first day of the attack on my village, the tanks came at six o'clock in the morning; there were also 150 to 180 men who came on strange planes (probably helicopters!). Beneath the planes, the tanks advanced... The people stood up against them... The tanks advanced and fired... They killed everyone. We were powerless... They arrived in the village and the bombardment began: everyone who was in their path was killed... There were 150 vehicles. In front of the vehicles was another kind of vehicle which we call 'dust-pushers' (khâk-âwor) (probably bulldozers!); it has a shovel in front and it makes a road! We are courageous men, but before that we were nothing!... Their planes dropped bombs. There was one type of bomb which I never would have imagined even in my dreams: a bomb which bursts in the air, explodes, and becomes 100 or 150 other bombs!... Everything, men, earth, rocks, trees, animals, even the river, everything is blown away!

"They also launched gas... That made us cry... I did not see the gas; it got into my eyes. They also used something else which burned the body; it itched so much that we dropped our Kalashnikovs... We did not see this gas, and I do not know where it came from. When that gas fell on the people, they could do nothing more! The Soviets also used something which made us laugh ('khand-awor')! They launched it at us, and we went ha! ha! as if we were crazy!... We were crazy like that for half an hour or an hour; I do not know any more... We ran among the tanks and laughed. Everything was forgotten. We kept laughing like that, and then it stopped. The Soviets picked up those who fainted and took them away."

Statement by Mike Barry on the gasses

"The incapacitating gasses used by the Red Army around the village of Shinkorak seem to have been anti-riot chemical agents: a very concentrated tear gas, an odorless and colorless skin irritant, and a laughing gas. On 19 March 1980 a mullah of Shinkorak testified that 13 people in his village had died of asphyxiation and that he and several companions had saved their lives with handkerchiefs dipped in the river with which they covered their noses and mouths. Also cited was a 'vapor' dropped by helicopters which caused pustules on the skin. It is probably a chemical irritant gas.

"Other statements were made to me concerning Nuristan, where for two months inhabitants have seen Soviet planes dropping capsules which emitted a grey smoke over their valleys. Because of the valleys' narrowness, this smoke spread out on the slopes and clung to the peaks instead of coming down. Daylight was thus obscured for several hours. Other witnesses also described a bomb which gives out smoke, clings to the uneven parts of the terrain in dark heavy clouds, and causes a bitter taste in the mouth, then very violent headaches, a burning in the eyes and lower extremities; it causes fainting and death!

"According to Pentagon experts, involved here is a deadly gas - Sarin - which attacks the nervous system and which is said to have been used in the northeast. A NATO expert recently said that in Afghanistan the USSR is using 'persistent' gasses: these chemical agents are used mainly to neutralize the routes which the Soviet convoys cross. In the cold zones, the persistent gasses remain effective for several weeks. The bodies of the ground fighters come in contact with the toxic agents and, as a result, fatally contaminate the zones into which they move; as soon as they enter a heated place, the gas evaporates and becomes deadly!"

33. VENETIAN GAZETTE

Oslo

May 30, 1980

POISON GAS OVER AFGHANISTAN? "THE SOVIET TROOPS ATTACKED AFGHAN VILLAGES IN THE KUNAR VALLEY NEAR THE BORDER TO PAKISTAN. APPROXIMATELY 130,000 AFGHANS DIED. WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE MURDERED. THE SOVIET TROOPS USED POISON GAS."

TEXT: THIS IS A PORTION OF A TELEGRAM CANADIAN MICHAEL BARRY SENT A SHORT TIME AGO TO "THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS" AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS ADDRESSED ITSELF TO A NUMBER OF SERIOUS BREACHES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BOTH IN THE EAST AND WEST. BARRY IS KNOWN AS AN OBJECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATOR.

FOR ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE HE MADE HIS REPORT, HE INTERVIEWED MANY REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN. SOME OF THESE REFUGEES CAME FROM PAKISTAN NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL KABUL; OTHERS FROM THE PROVINCES OF TAKHAR AND BAMIAN, A GOOD DISTANCE AWAY.

IN THEIR TESTIMONY ABOUT THE USE OF POISON GAS, THERE WAS A SHARER DESCRIPTION: PLANES DROPPED BOMBS WHICH EXPLODED IN THE AIR AND SPREAD GAS. THOSE WHO DID NOT MANAGE TO GET AWAY WERE AFFECTED IN DIFFERENT WAYS; THEY BEGAN TO THROB UP, BECAME BLIND AND OTHERWISE LAME, AND SOME DIED.

BARRY RECOMMENDED TO UN GENERAL SECRETARY KURT WALDHEIM THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE A CLOSER EXAMINATION OF THE CASE AND OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE MATERIAL HE HAS COLLECTED. AMONG OTHER THINGS THE NAMES OF AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES WHO EITHER HAVE BEEN WITNESSES TO OR RECIPIENTS OF POISON GAS ATTACKS.

FROM MOSCOW HE HEAR VEHEMENT DENIALS. THE TELEGRAM BUREAU, TASS INSISTED THAT WHAT THE SOVIET LEADERS CALL DESPICABLE LIES HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN PLANTED BY THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND THAT BARRY IS A PAWN IN THE COLD WAR AND A THREAT

TO ALL PEACE LOVING PEOPLE.

SEVERAL COMMENTATORS ON MOSCOW RADIO HAVE POSED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: "WHERE IS THE PROOF OF THESE ABSURD ACCUSATIONS? ARE THESE AMERICAN LACKEYS IN A POSITION TO DISPLAY A DEAD AFGHAN KILLED BY POISON GAS?"

DURING MUSSOLINI'S ATTACK ON ETHIOPIA IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 1930'S THE ITALIAN TROOPS USED POISON GAS. FOR THE ITALIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP THE ETHIOPIAN MOUNTAIN VILLAGES WERE AN EXCELLENT TEST SITE FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS. MUSSOLINI, TOO, HATED AND RAVED AGAINST THOSE IN THE WEST WHO PUBLISHED THE TESTIMONY THE ETHIOPIANS HAD PROVIDED AND WHO POSED THE QUESTION: "WERE THE FASCISTS USING POISON GAS IN ETHIOPIA?"

MUSSOLINI DEMANDED THAT THE ITALIAN ACCUSORS PROVIDE THE PROOF OF THEIR ACCUSATIONS KNOWING FULL WELL THAT IT IS NO SIMPLE AFFAIR TO TRANSPORT A CORPSE FROM A WAR ZONE TO A HOSPITAL TO OBTAIN EXPERT TESTIMONY BY MEANS OF AN AUTOPSY. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN ETHIOPIA WHERE THE OCCUPYING FORCES HAD CONQUERED MOST OF THE CITIES AND THEREBY THE HOSPITALS AS WELL. IT IS PRECISELY THE SAME CASE WITH THE SOVIETS IN AFGHANISTAN.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR THAT THE PROOF WAS PUBLISHED. IN SECRET REPORTS RESEARCHERS FOUND THE TIMES AND PLACES THAT POISON GAS WAS USED IN ETHIOPIA TOGETHER WITH ANALYSES OF DEBRIDES OF LETHAL EFFECT. BUT OF COURSE THAT WAS A GOOD TEN YEARS AFTER THE INITIAL COMPLAINT WAS REGISTERED.

SO LIKE IT WAS IN ETHIOPIA, IN AFGHANISTAN, AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF WAR, NO UNDENIABLE PROOF OF THE SOVIET USE OF POISON GAS HAS COME FORWARD. BUT WHAT OF THE INDICATIONS?

NO ONE CAN FAULT THE AMERICAN TV COMPANY CBS FOR BEING A TOOL OF THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. IN THE END OF MARCH CBS REPORTER DAN RATHER SPENT OVER A WEEK IN AFGHANISTAN. IN ALL SECRECY HE WAS SHOUGLED INTO THE COUNTRY DRESSED LIKE AN AFGHAN TOGETHER WITH EDEN FRYE FROM THE HARVARD SCHOOL OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES. FRYE IS A MASTER OF THE LANGUAGES WHICH ARE USED IN THE AREA.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS MISSION RATHER SAID THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE POISON GAS TESTIMONY: "WHEN I WENT IN I DOUBTED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE USING IT, BUT I AM COMING FROM AFGHANISTAN CONVINCED THAT THEY HAVE USED NERVE GAS. NO ONE ATTACKED US WITH GAS, BUT HE SPOKE TO SEVERAL HUNDRED AFGHANS WHO PROVIDED FIRST HAND INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH ATTACKS. THE MOST CONVINCING

WITNESS WAS A HIGHLY RESPECTED DOCTOR FROM THE MEDICAL FACULTY IN KABUL. HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN THROUGH A GAS ATTACK."

SO STATES CAN RATHER. ON THE ELEVENTH OF MARCH THIS YEAR THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THAT SOVIET PLANES HAD USED NERVE GAS CALLED SOMAN AGAINST THE GUERRILLA GROUPS AND CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE NORTHEASTERN SECTION OF AFGHANISTAN. HE WHO BREATHE IN A MILLIGRAM OF SOMAN DIES. AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME THE WELL KNOWN FRENCH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST DANIEL JACOBY SAID ON FRENCH TV: "THE SOVIET UNION'S USE OF NERVE GAS IN AFGHANISTAN HAS CLAIMED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF VICTIMS."

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE EQUIPPED FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE, AMONG OTHER THINGS THEY CARRY A NUMBER OF PORTABLE DETOXIFICATION CHAMBERS MOUNTED ON LARGE TRUCKS.

THE SOVIET UNION'S ARMED FORCES HAVE MORE THAN 80,000 SPECIALISTS IN CHEMICAL WARFARE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL V.K. PINKLOV. PROFESSOR JOHN ERICKSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE STUDIES DEPT. AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, SAYS THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF THE STORED PROJECTILES OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES ARE DESIGNED FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE.

IF THE SOVIET TROOPS' SUPPLIES OF POISON GAS AND DETOXIFICATION EQUIPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN ARE AS THE AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN JIM LEACH HAS SAID, THEN "THEY HAVE BEEN SENT THERE TO BE USED AGAINST AFGHAN REBELS."

THE SOVIET UNION CLAIMS ITS INNOCENCE, AND POINTS OUT THAT IT HAS SIGNED THE 1925 AGREEMENT WHICH FORBIDS THE USE OF POISON GAS. BUT A SOVIET SIGNATURE IS NOT AN ESPECIALLY STRONG ARGUMENT. THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALSO SIGNED THE UN DECLARATION WHICH FORBIDS AGGRESSION AND OF COURSE SOVIET TROOPS ARE FIGHTING AGAINST NATIONALISTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

THE SITUATION IS SO SERIOUS THAT AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES SHOULD BE ORGANIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END OF TEXT.